

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) An organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide prepared by a process comprising the step of esterification reacting (A) an organopolysiloxane having residual carboxylic anhydride groups and (B) a polysaccharide having hydroxyl groups, wherein the organopolysiloxane is bonded to the polysaccharide through half ester groups.

2. (Original) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula,  $R^1_a R^2_b SiO_{(4-a-b)/2}$

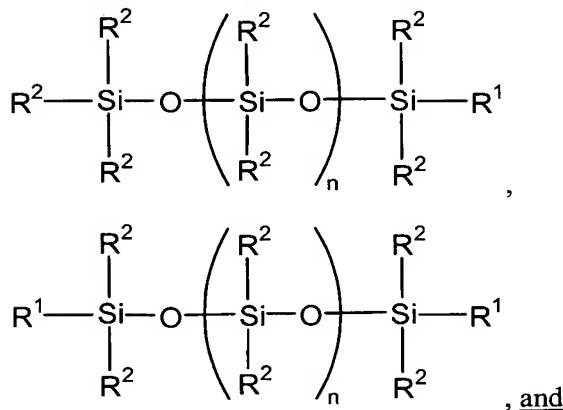
where  $R^1$  is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride,

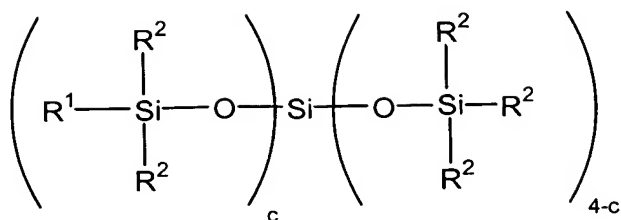
$R^2$  is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group

with the proviso that at least one  $R^2$  is a monovalent hydrocarbon when b is greater than 1,

and the subscripts "a" and "b" are numbers satisfying the conditions  $0 < a \leq 1$ , and  $0 < b \leq 3$ , respectively, and  $0 < a + b < 4$ .

3. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula selected from the group of;





where R<sup>1</sup> is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride group,

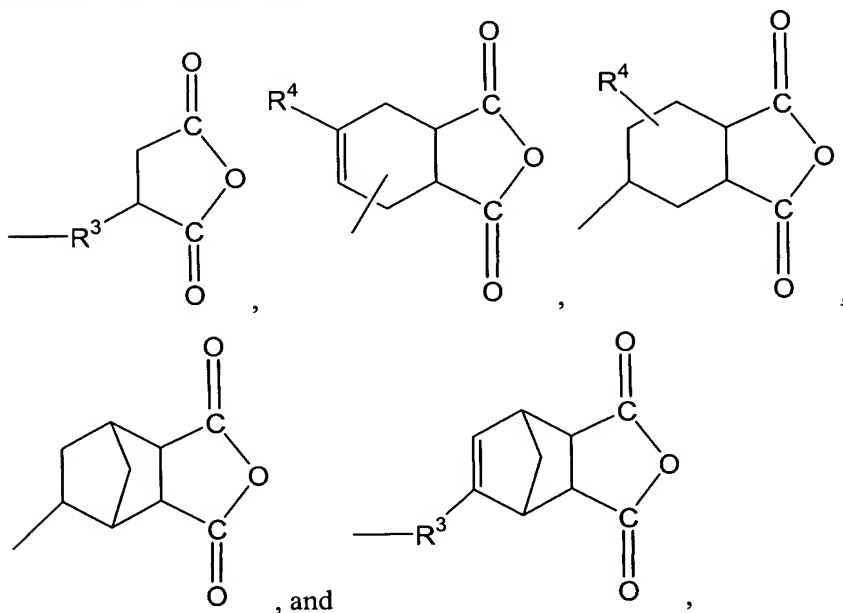
R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group,

with the proviso that at least one R<sup>2</sup> is a monovalent hydrocarbon,

n is an integer greater than zero, and

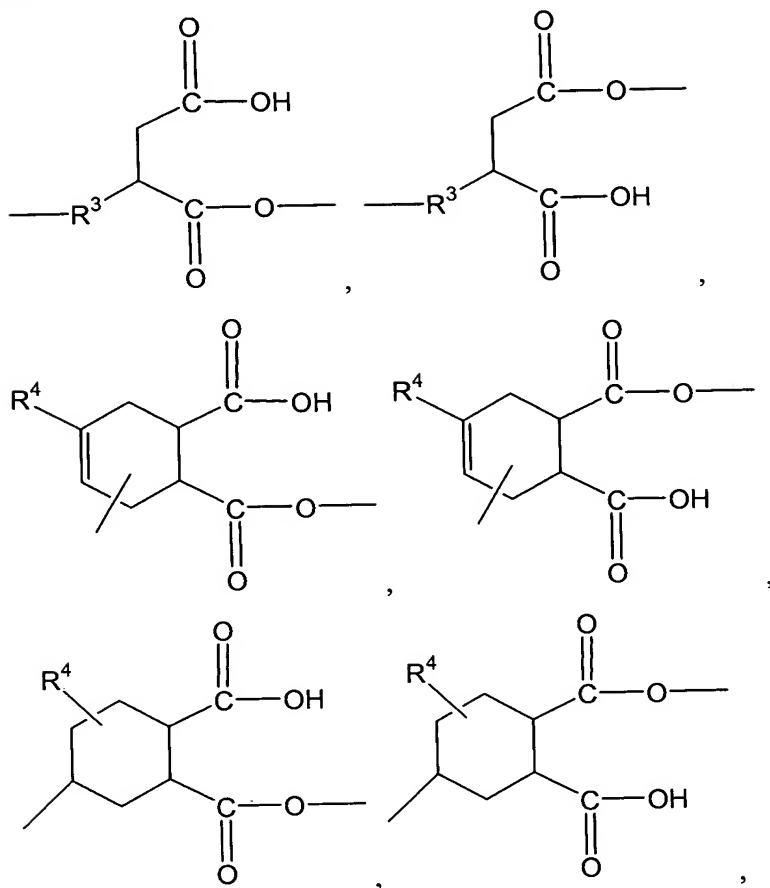
c is an integer from 1 to 4.

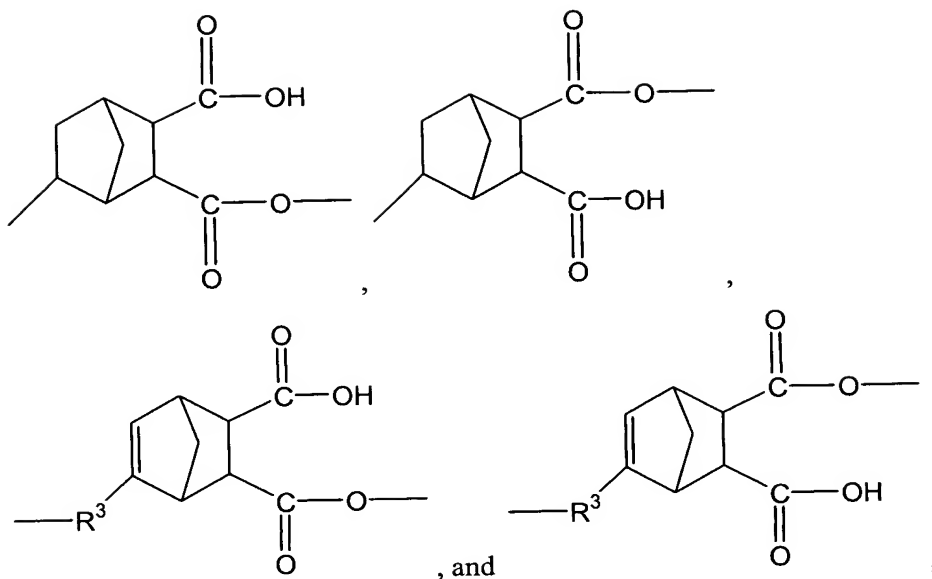
4. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 2 [[or 3]], wherein the residual carboxylic anhydride has a formula selected from the group[:]] of:



where R<sup>3</sup> is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R<sup>4</sup> is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.

5. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein the half ester group has a formula selected from the group of;





where  $R^3$  is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and  $R^4$  is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.

6. (Currently Amended) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of [[a]] ligneous polysaccharides, polysaccharides obtained from fruit flesh and rhizome, plant adhesive substances, legume-derived polysaccharides, seaweed-derived polysaccharides, microorganism-produced polysaccharides, polysaccharides of animal origin, or a derivative of these polysaccharides.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide, said process comprising the step of esterification reacting;

(A) an organopolysiloxane having residual carboxylic anhydride groups, and

(B) a polysaccharide having hydroxyl groups,

in the presence of

(C) a non-protonic polar solvent.

8. (Original) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula,  $R^1_a R^2_b SiO_{(4-a-b)/2}$

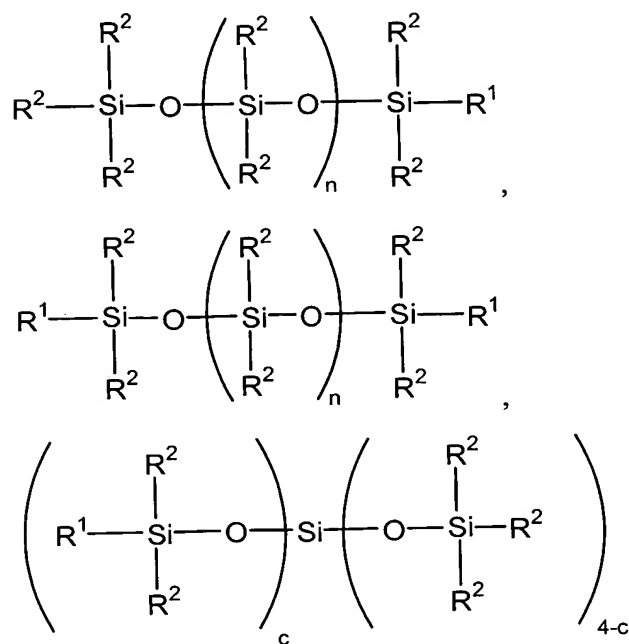
where  $R^1$  is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride,

$R^2$  is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group

with the proviso that at least one  $R^2$  is a monovalent hydrocarbon when  $b$  is greater than 1,

and the subscripts "a" and "b" are numbers satisfying the conditions  $0 < a \leq 1$ , and  $0 < b \leq 3$ , respectively, and  $0 < a + b < 4$ .

9. (Currently Amended) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (A) is an organopolysiloxane having the formula selected from the group of;



where  $R^1$  is a monovalent organic group containing a residual carboxylic anhydride group,

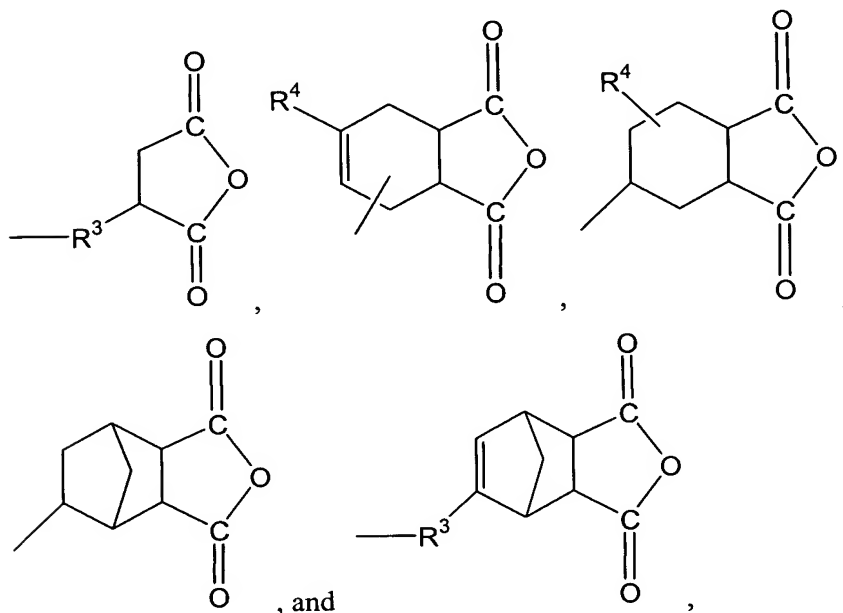
$R^2$  is a hydrogen atom or monovalent hydrocarbon group,

with the proviso that at least one  $R^2$  is a monovalent hydrocarbon,

$n$  is an integer greater than zero, and

$c$  is an integer from 1 to 4.

10. (Currently Amended) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 8 [[or 9]], wherein the residual carboxylic anhydride has a formula selected from the group[[:]] of:



where R<sup>3</sup> is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and R<sup>4</sup> is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.

11. (Currently Amended) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (B) is selected from the group of [[a]] ligneous polysaccharides, polysaccharides obtained from fruit flesh and rhizome, plant adhesive substances, legume-derived polysaccharides, seaweed-derived polysaccharides, microorganism-produced polysaccharides, polysaccharides of animal origin, or a derivative of these polysaccharides.

12. (Original) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein component (C) is *N,N*-dimethylacetamide, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, or hexamethylphosphortriamide.

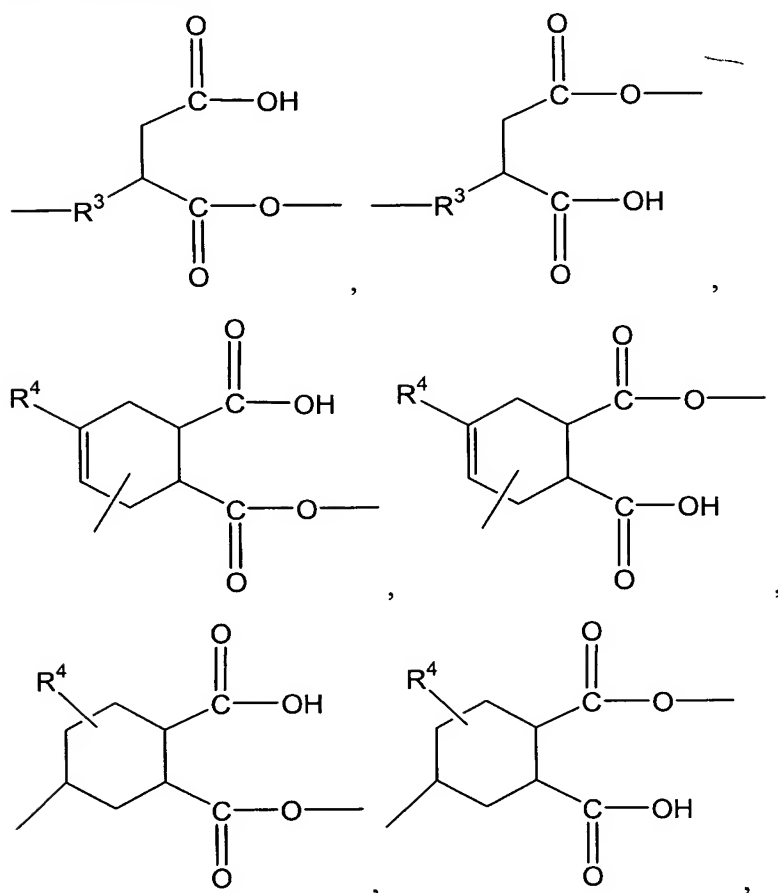
Please add the following new claims.

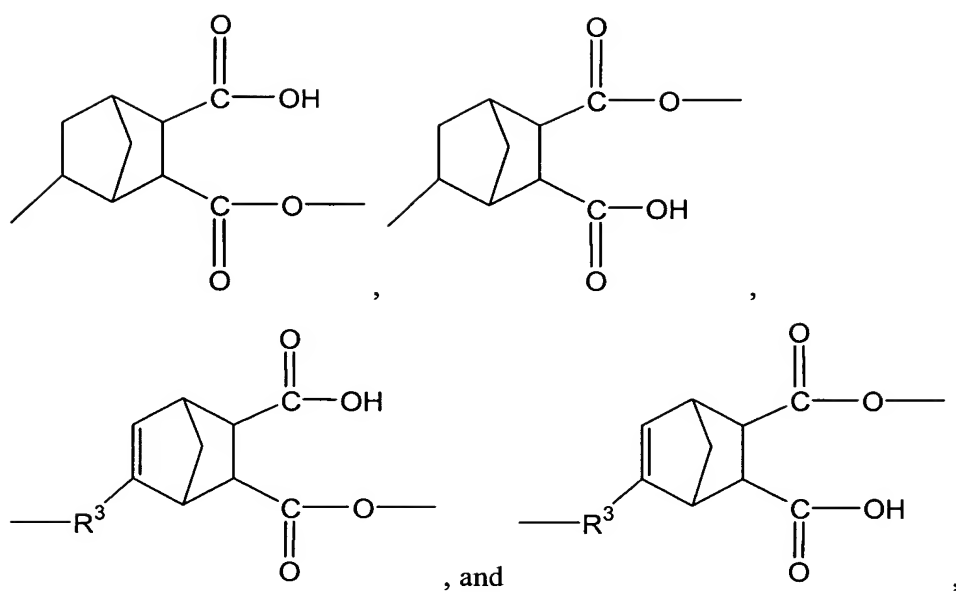
13. (New) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 1, wherein components (A) and (B) are esterification reacted in the presence of (C) a non-protonic polar solvent.

14. (New) The organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 13, wherein component (C) is *N,N*-dimethylacetamide, *N,N*-dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, or hexamethylphosphortriamide.

15. (New) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 7, wherein the organopolysiloxane is bonded to the polysaccharide through half ester groups.

16. (New) The process for the preparation of organopolysiloxane-modified polysaccharide according to claim 15, wherein the half ester group has a formula selected from the group of;





where  $\text{R}^3$  is a divalent hydrocarbon group, and  $\text{R}^4$  is a hydrogen atom or alkyl group.